Communitas

MVCC Faculty/Staff Newsletter

Week of May 16, 2011

Nursing has been Caputo's passion

From the time she graduated from high school, nursing has always been Nancy Caputo's passion. But in the beginning, educating the next generation of nurses had not been considered by Caputo until the opportunity was presented to her by former Dean of Health Sciences Dr. Beverly Warner.

"She called me to ask if I had ever considered teaching. I was working at St. Luke's Memorial Hospital in the education and training department and she said she wanted to discuss an opportunity at MVCC," said Caputo. After meeting with Dean Warner, Caputo was offered a teaching position and decided to join the MVCC community in 1978. Over the next three years, Caputo's drive and dedication enabled her to complete a master's degree at Syracuse University while attending full time, as well as working at MVCC full time and raising four children.

"That was hard, and looking back I don't know how I did it, but at the same time I really loved it," said Caputo with a smile.

Caputo's dedication was not overlooked during this time and she was appointed the Nursing Department's Second Year Coordinator during the 1980s under department head Nancy Green. This professional experience laid the groundwork for Caputo to step right into the department head's position when Green retired in 1991.

"There have been a lot changes over the years, but it has been a wonderful journey of self-growth and learning. It is the people here who make the difference. The college community has been my extended family. I have had a lot of support to grow in my administrative role, and have had wonderful role models," added Caputo.

The nursing and allied health programs have always been signature programs at MVCC, and Caputo has seen many changes for the better. Back in 1978, the nursing lab was across the hall from Human Resources, in what is now an art studio in the Academic Building. The nursing labs were soon moved to trailers behind the dorms and then to the current location in AB.

Caputo was also a strong supporter for MVCC's cadaver program."There is no better experience than learning on a human cadaver. The cadaver experience has been a phenomenal tool for nursing and respiratory care students in preparing them for the rigors of these programs."

According to Caputo, classroom and lab capacity are ongoing issues for MVCC's health education efforts. "Once again, we are outgrowing our space. The off-campus clinical learning environments for nursing students are becoming increasingly difficult to schedule." When faced with similar challenges in the past, it was under Caputo's watch that MVCC's respiratory care program was expanded and nursing labs were added to the Rome Campus. The expansion of course offerings on the Rome Campus came as a result of a partnership with Rome Memorial Hospital. This expansion has helped to meet the needs of interested individuals residing in Western Oneida County.

In her role as department head and then Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, Caputo is proudest of two accomplishments. First was working with nursing faculty and staff to maintain high standards as outlined by the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). This accounts for the nursing program achieving full accreditation for the past eight years. "It's validation that we have and are continuing to do a good job, and it doesn't get any better than this," said Caputo.

CORNERSTONE OF NURSING PROGRAM RETIRES - Nancy Captuo has been the key to the success of the College's nursing program and its high standards. Here she is discussing course work with students Marina Joseph-Lebeoleva and Yelena Tarasevich.

Her second point of pride has been connecting MVCC with regional and national trends. "My goal has been to know what is going on in nursing across New York State so our programs can respond to the ever-changing health care arena. Being actively involved at the state and national levels has enabled me to lead the faculty and has kept our nursing program in the forefront of being well-respected in New York State and our graduates highly praised," said Caputo. Going hand-in-hand with this achievement are the partnerships she has helped nurture within the community which have proven paramount in advancing the programs. But challenges remain ahead, such as continuing to attract qualified nursing instructors.

"Looking to the future in associate degree nursing I hope the college will seek diversity in hiring future nurse educators," said Caputo. "And, I have a vision that one day MVCC and SUNYIT nursing will partner together and create a Nursing Center of Excellence in the Mohawk Valley with associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral students all learning together under one complex. Now, wouldn't that be the cat's meow?"

Caputo plans to stay active in retirement as an adjunct and as a consultant for the NLN. She is currently on the Nursing Advisory Boards of SUNYIT and Utica College. Family and friends are in the process of establishing a nursing scholarship in her name.

Said Caputo, "I will be leaving MVCC with wonderful memories, wonderful friends and great pride in knowing that the MVCC community has and will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of one another and in the lives of our students. Thank you all."

67 nursing students honored at Pinning

It was an evening of celebration for the 67 nursing students who are graduating this May during Thursday's Pinning Ceremony in the Theater.

It was a packed house with Mistress of Ceremonies Jonelle Ritchie explaining what it means to be a nurse. "Nursing is not about you, me, I or us. It is about the patient and how we can best serve the patient," said Ritchie. She went on to talk about how her clinical work in area hospitals helped her understand the true meaning of the circle of life as a patient died on her shift on one floor only to learn later that a child was born at the same time in a different wing.

This year's graduating class also represents the changing diversity within the region. There were 19 male graduates, the most ever from the program, and 13 bilingual students whose first language isn't English. The youngest graduate was 20 years old with the oldest being 52 for an average age of 26 years old. Several of the graduates already held degrees and returned in pursuit of a new career.

"We have a commitment to our patients. For that reason, we are tough on our students to make them the best. Ours is the toughest program at the College and you should be proud of being successful," said Nancy Caputo, RN, MSN, Professor, Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health.

Remarks during the ceremony were also made by Robert Jubenville, Ph.D., Dean of Health and Life Sciences.

This year's graduates are:

Andrew J. Alsheimer
Dawn E. Amankwaa
Patricia R. Andrews
Tisha M. Armstrong
Zawsai Aung
Lacey M. Aylesworth
Carla J. Bartholomew
Melissa A. Bogacz
Jodie L. Bush
Natallia M. Bykovich
Claudia Cardarelli-Fulop
Angelica Demko
Suzanne Dienhoffer
Yevgeniya S. Dimov
Aldin Djozo
Christopher G. Dunham
Brian W. Dunn
Dragica Dzinic
Adria E. Eysaman
Kristen J. Feisthamel
Eric M. Flinchum
Samantha A. Fox
Nicole M. Freeman
David A. Gillespie
Ciarelys Gonzalez
Evonne E. Gould
Bruce S. Grover
Irina V. Guseva
Darren P. Hatch
MaKayla A. Hayes
Jodi M. Hight
Deborah L. Illich
Nataliya I. Kichuk
Nina G. Kuzmich
Ashley M. LaMont
Aleksandar Lazic
Jeremy J. Lesniak
Cordella Lyon
Melissa N. Moffatt
Yassmin B. Mukhtar Ahmad

NURSING LEADERSHIP - Nancy Caputo reacts after being recognized for her accomplishments in making MVCC's nursing and allied health programs strong. Caputo is retiring this spring.

Suzanna S. Myalik
Matthew M. O'Donnell
Nicole J. Paciello
Stacey Panuccio
Erin M. Papaleo
Jennifer A. Patrick
Cheryl A. Peycke
Andre Pilipchuk
Peter John Pope
Julie K. Reed-Kulawy
Jonelle E. Ritchie
Tamara L. Roberts
Deborah M. Russo
Amy M. Samson
Brandon K. Sanford
Gretchen W. Scheible
Stacy L. Secor
Bonnie L. Segit
Nataliya Selyuzhitskaya
Jordan A. Sirtoli
Alan E. Stern
Melissa A. Stetson
Chelesea N. Talerico
Sharon L. Thrasher
Gabriela B. Trigo
Marina Tsitsyura
Julia M. Turner
Adam E. Ullman
Alex Voloshchuk
David Williams
Anne Christine Yacco
Loretta L. Yaddow

Drogo dedication set for May 25 luncheon

As part of next week's Summer Institute, President Randall VanWagoner and the Professional Association are collaborating to present a memorial plaque marking the Drogo Anatomy and Physiology Lab. A brief ceremony will take place during the Summer Institute Recognition Luncheon in the ACC Commons on Wednesday, May 25. The luncheon starts at 12:30 p.m. Diners should RSVP at http://www2.mvcc.edu/training/si/ .

Summer Institute details

As Summer Institute approaches, registrations have more than doubled during the past week with well over two-thirds of full time faculty and staff registered for one or more sessions.

Some sessions still have space available. Signups are online at http://www2.mvcc.edu/training/si/ . Also, some sessions may be relocated, such as the move of Wednesday's Potato Plenary to the ACC Commons. Any other changes or updates will be communicated by e-mail and MVCC Today.

AWARD RECIPIENT - Heather Ryerson is congratulated by President Randall VanWagoner during the annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet. Behind them is MVCC Foundation Board President Dana Jerrard.

250 students benefit at scholarship banquet

MVCC students continue to benefit from the work of the Foundation and will do so in the future thanks to the Challenge and Opportunity Campaign. The students saw the fruits of the Foundation's labor during the annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet held in the MVCC Commons last week.

The Scholarship Review Committee, which consists of 12 volunteers, received 725 scholarship applications from which they awarded 325 scholarships. Of these, five scholarships are for MVCC graduates seeking to pursue a bachelor's degree. Most scholarships are awarded to students returning for the fall semester or high school seniors who will be attending MVCC.

The 325 scholarships were presented to 250 individuals in the amount of approximately $260,000. More than 265 people were in attendance of the banquet with MVCC President Dr. Randall VanWagoner and Foundation Board President Dana Jerrard presenting the awards.

Scantlebury named to Sutton's Who's Who

Barbara Scantlebury, Ph.D., has been named to Sutton's Who's Who in Academia for the 2010-2011 edition.

Dr. Scantlebury is an Associate Professor at MVCC where she specializes in Information Technology. Dr. Scantlebury earned her Ph.D. in Information Technology from the University of Salford and her Masters of Education from the University of Manchester, England.

She donates charitably to the Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, and is the 2nd Vice President of the Mohawk Valley Frontiers. In her spare time, Dr. Scantlebury enjoys traveling, volunteering and going to church.

Dr. Scantlebury

Submit information for Communitas to Rich Haubert at rhaubert@mvcc.edu

月曜日 火曜日 水曜日 木曜日 金曜日 土曜日 日曜日

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday

Bruggeman gets opportunity to teach English in Japan

A unique opportunity has arisen for an MVCC employee: Janelle Bruggeman will be leaving the United States at the end of July to teach English in Japan.

Bruggeman

"I am really excited and honored they chose me. I have always been a very adapted person and I want to challenge myself with this. I love meeting people from different cultures and this is an opportunity I couldn't pass up," said Bruggeman, who works in the IT Department on the Rome Campus and oversees the Media Help Desk.

Bruggeman will carry her MVCC experiences with her when she departs for Japan on July 23 to work as a teaching assistant in English. Her responsibilities will include working with lesson plans and providing speech activities middle school and high school students. She'll also be involved in extra-curricular clubs in order to expose the students to the American culture.

It will be a different culture for Bruggeman as well. Japan's school year begins in January and runs to May. There is a summer break and classes resume at the end of July, which is when she will be placed in her new position. She will learn later this month where in Japan she will be placed on a one-year contract.

"I have been interested in going back for the past four years. I was waiting to graduate from college. I want to broaden my horizons while I'm still young and hopefully going through this program may lead to some work in the field of animation," said Bruggeman, who is a big fan of Japanese Anime.

This is the second visit to Japan for Bruggeman. A native of Taberg and 2005 graduate from Camden High School, Bruggeman came to MVCC where she earned degree in Computer Digital Animation. She went on to SUNY Oneonta where she graduated in December 2009. While attending SUNY Oneonta, she took part in the international education program where she studied for a semester in Japan and learned the language.

She admits her Japanese reading and writing skills are on an intermediate level, but is quite fluent linguistically. She explained there are three forms of alphabets with two for verbal communication and one for written. There is the traditional Japanese alphabet and then a second one for foreign words. There are more than 10,000 characters.

"I want to support the Japanese people and encourage more people to travel because the rest of Japan is safe," added Bruggeman, who is planning on pursuing a master's degree in illustration.

With Japan being near the size of Florida, Bruggeman is planning to travel to the country in her free time to visit Tokyo and Fukuoka, the third largest city in the county.

Did you know?

This summer CCED is offering 30 career camps for kids and teens, with 38 options for topics, locations, and dates.